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Addendum

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Executive Summary
UNEP's report on the recommendations of the second session of the PFII addresses all the activities and programmes that UNEP has been undertaking in the fields addressed by the recommendations.

UNEP would especially like to bring to the notice of the Permanent Forum the work it has undertaken on poverty and environment, as well as the important practical work undertaken through partnerships with indigenous peoples organisations. This places a strong focus on indigenous peoples, recognising their needs as key stakeholders as well as the necessity of their participation for the success of sustainable development.

Progress has also been made in the engagement of women in environmental decision-making as well as in the expanded engagement of children and youth within UNEP. This report will also present various programmes and projects where UNEP has functioned as financing and executing agency, and which have made significant efforts to engage and support indigenous peoples organisations.

Introduction

1. The mandate of UNEP is *to provide leadership and encourage partnerships in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations.*

2. This link between human well-being and the environment informs all UNEP's work, but becomes especially acute in the case of indigenous peoples. UNEP has long recognised the environmental risks and challenges affecting indigenous peoples, as well as their unique potential for contributing much-needed innovative solutions to environmental sustainability

3. For indigenous peoples, civil society activities provide an opportunity for engaging with UNEP at a policy level. UNEP recognises the position of civil society at the frontline of sustainable development and has continuously collaborated with civil society and NGOs, including indigenous peoples' organisations.

4. A UNEP strategy to improve civil society engagement was presented during the UNEP Governing Council 22 in February 2003, and is currently being implemented through activities on information exchange, policy and programmatic engagement. An improved information network and the annual Global Civil Society Forum have significantly increased the engagement of civil society in policy development. The outcomes of the Global Civil Society Forum are conveyed to UNEP's regular Ministerial

policy forum, where they are taken into account in developing national, regional and global environmental policies.

A. RESPONSES TO RECOMMENDATIONS ADDRESSED EXCLUSIVELY TO UNEP UNDER ONE OR MORE ITEMS OF THE PFII MANDATE:

Under the mandated area of environment, the Permanent Forum addressed the following recommendations exclusively to UNEP:

Paragraph 50

5. UNEP's Chemical's Branch plans to implement the recommendation by inviting the participation of indigenous peoples' organisation networks in the effectiveness evaluation related activities under Article 16 of the Stockholm Convention.

6. Regarding the second part of the recommendation, while UNEP pursues activities regarding mercury contamination, the UNEP Governing Council 22, in February 2003, did not decide to work towards a global legally binding instrument.

7. The UNEP Governing Council in its 22nd session requested UNEP, in cooperation and consultation with other appropriate organizations, to facilitate and conduct technical assistance and capacity-building activities to support the efforts of countries to take action on mercury pollution. In response to this request, UNEP established a mercury programme within UNEP Chemicals. The long-term objective is to facilitate national, regional and global actions to reduce and eliminate anthropogenic uses and releases of mercury and mercury compounds, thereby significantly reducing their global adverse impacts on health and the environment.

8. The immediate objective is to encourage all countries to adopt goals and take national actions, with the objective of identifying exposed populations and ecosystems, and reducing anthropogenic mercury releases that impact human health and the environment.

9. The activities of the program for 2004 will consist of:

- facilitating and conducting technical assistance and capacity-building activities;
- consultation and cooperation with international organizations that address issues related to mercury;
- mobilization of technical and financial resources to support national, regional and global efforts; and
- preparation, for the Governing Council's consideration at its 23rd session in February 2005, of further measures for addressing the significant global adverse impacts of mercury and other heavy metals;

10. Governments will be invited to submit their views with regard to further measures for addressing the significant global adverse impacts of mercury. UNEP will compile and

present the submissions (including, for example, the possibility of developing a legally binding instrument, a non-legally binding instrument or other measures or actions), for consideration by the Governing Council. UNEP will also present a report to the Governing Council on further actions with regard to other heavy metals, including any submissions from Governments, IGOs and other stakeholders. Implementation of the planned activities is completely dependent upon the availability of extra-budgetary resources.

Paragraph 56
Survey on Environment and Cultural Diversity for Sustainable Development.

11. UNEP, together with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), UNEP Regional Offices, UNESCO field offices and in consultation with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) are undertaking this global survey. The purpose of the survey is to strengthen the comprehension of the interlinkages of environment and cultural diversity.

12. UNEP recognises that the loss of biological diversity, weakening of cultural diversity and the poverty phenomenon are closely connected and require a holistic approach for action at all levels. As requested in decision UNEP GC. 22/16 the survey shall focus on the state of current work and possible developments on environment and cultural diversity, with particular attention to human well-being.

13. The survey will comprise of a desk study outlining the academic discourse on the topic, questionnaires and regional consultations. The regional consultations will be in the form of three-day workshops involving experts representing civil society with a special focus on NGOs, academics and indigenous peoples. The division of regions will be the following: sub-Saharan Africa, Arab States including North Africa, Europe, Asia, West Asia, North America, Latin America and the Caribbean and the Pacific. The regional consultations will also contribute to awareness raising on the topic and develop a dialogue among scientists, indigenous peoples organisations, field experts, government representatives, NGOs and UN agencies. The final report of the survey will be presented to the Governing Council of UNEP in 2005.

Under the mandated area of <u>health</u>, the Permanent Forum in paragraph 71 addresses a recommendation exclusively to UNEP:

14. This has already been done through decisions at the 7th special session of the UNEP Governing Council/ Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC/GMEF) held in February 2002 and the Governing Council 22 held in February 2003. In addition, as there has not yet been a meeting of the COP, the second half of the recommendation is premature.

B. RESPONSES TO RECOMMENDATIONS ADDRESSED TO ONE OR MORE AGENCIES OR TO THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM IN GENERAL

Under the mandated area of **indigenous children and youth:**

Paragraph 5a.

15. UNEP started its work with young people in 1985, the International Youth Year. Since then, it has developed various global and regional initiatives, activities and networks. UNEP has held regular conferences for young people and promoted environmental awareness through competitions, recognition and partnerships with organisations working with young people, including indigenous children and youth. UNEP has also involved young people in its Governing Council sessions and in the development of regional and global environmental reports.

16. In February 2003, **"TUNZA",** a long-term strategy for engaging children and youth in UNEP's work was adopted by Governments. The Kiswahili word "TUNZA" means "to treat with care or affection". The overall TUNZA concept is built around this theme. It is an initiative meant to develop activities in the areas of capacity building, environmental awareness, and information exchange. The vision is to foster a generation of environmentally conscious citizens who will better influence decision-making processes and act responsibly to create a sustainable world, and to engage young people in the work of UNEP and enhance participatory action towards environmental conservation and sustainable development. The objective is to increase the participation of young people in environmental issues.

17. The TUNZA International Youth Conference is an important by-product of this strategy. The TUNZA magazine, and the book "*A Time for Action*", provides up-to-date information and resources that support the environmental empowerment of young people.

18. **The first Tunza International Youth Conference** was held in Dubna, Russia from 25 to 27 August 2003. Nearly 100 participants from 60 countries attended. During the conference participants developed regional plans of actions for the long-term strategy on engaging young people in environmental issues, developed 10 commitments for the environment, and elected members of the Tunza Youth Advisory Council from all UNEP regions. The Conference was also used to launch a new UNEP publication, *Tunza: Acting for a Better World.* Several capacity-building workshops were organised for the participants of the Conference. They ranged from fundraising to project development and implementation, and resulted in the development of "how-to-do" action tips for young people.

19. **In the Tunza Youth Advisory Council** four places (two advisors and two associate advisors) are reserved for representatives of indigenous youth organizations. This was a result of a meeting between the Executive Director of UNEP and the Indigenous Youth Caucus at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in September 2002.

20. The Advisory Council also has four representatives (two Advisors and two Associate Advisors) per region. The key function of the Council is to advise UNEP on better ways of working with young people and to represent youth organizations in decision-making fora such as the UNEP Governing Council. Unfortunately, the four places reserved for indigenous youth could not be filled up as the only representatives at the 2003 Tunza International Youth Conference, where the election took place, were over the age limit for the Advisory Council. UNEP hopes to include enough qualified representatives from indigenous groups at the next TUNZA International Youth Conference in 2005 to fill these slots. For more information on the selection process and criteria please contact the UNEP Children & Youth/Sport & the Environment Unit.

21. **Tunza International Children's Conference**. The next Tunza International Children's Conference on the environment will take place in New London, Connecticut from 19 to 23 July 2004. The Conference will have a strong focus on indigenous issues with one of the four main themes being "Indigenous Peoples and their Environmental Ways".

22. UNEP has a committee working on the incorporation of indigenous issues in the Conference programme and at least 40 of the 600 children at the Conference are expected to be indigenous children. Indigenous children from around New London are involved in the advisory board for the Conference. The Conference has also received endorsement and funding from several native American tribes, notably the Mashantuket Piquot Tribal Council and the Mohigan Tribal Council.

23. **UNEP/ UNESCO YouthXchange project (YXC)**. UNEP and UNESCO interviewed 10,000 youth in 24 countries worldwide. Their answers and direct requests for information led to the production of the UNEP/ UNESCO YouthXchange project (YXC). The output is a training kit - composed of a guide and a website - designed to assist teachers, public authorities, youth groups, NGOs, etc. The goal of the kit is to raise awareness of sustainable consumption and to empower young people in adopting sustainable choices in their daily lives.

24. As a follow-up of the YXC project, UNEP will include information about indigenous youth and their problems in the materials UNEP is offering to its global young clients and explore the possibilities to develop a specific youth outreach project towards the indigenous youth in relation to their knowledge and what the global community can learn from them. Financial implications of the activities listed above are estimated at US$ 10, 000 (to include information about indigenous youth and their problems in the YXC kit and explore the possibilities to develop a specific youth outreach project towards indigenous youth).

Under the mandated area of <u>environment:</u>

Paragraph 48.

25. UNEP proposes to implement the recommendation by taking into account the indigenous peoples' Kyoto water declaration in the discussions for the Governing Council /Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC/GMEF) at its 8th Special session in Jeju, Republic of Korea, March 2004 and in relevant discussions at the Barbados +10 meeting on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in Mauritius.

Paragraph 51.

26. The Production and Consumption Branch of UNEP within the Division on Technology, Industry and Economics (DTIE) will contact UNHCHR to discuss the possibility of organising a workshop as requested; with a broad approach and taking into account human rights violations and threats to health and human well-being.

Paragraph 55.

27. The Third Meeting of the Inter-sessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity, in Montreal in December 2003 also discussed the "*draft guidelines for the conduct of cultural, environmental and social impact assessments regarding developments proposed to take place on, or which are likely to impact on, sacred sites and on lands and waters traditionally occupied or used by indigenous and local communities*" *(UNEP/CBD/WG8J/3/5)*. The Forum shall be informed on any outcomes and results by the CBD. Moreover, the organisation of the workshop should also involve UNESCO since it has also undertaken relevant work in this area.

Paragraph 60.

28. UNEP is exploring opportunities and modalities to allocate additional funds to indigenous peoples for projects consistent with UNEP's approved programme of work. UNEP has already allocated funds to GRID-Arendal projects for health and environment projects in Arctic Russia and for the planned Vital Arctic Graphics, which will consider indigenous peoples' perspectives.

29. UNEP in its capacity as an implementing agency of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) is supporting several projects related to indigenous issues, among them: **International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB).** UNEP-GEF is supporting the development of this medium-sized project by the International Alliance of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples of the Tropical Forests. The project will promote and strengthen the engagement of indigenous peoples groups in the work of the GEF and the CBD for which GEF serves as financial mechanism. To this end, UNEP approved in July 2002 a GEF project preparation grant of US$25,000 to the Association IXÄ CA VAÄ for Indigenous Development and Information of Costa Rica, acting as one of the partners of the International Alliance, to develop the project. UNEP has provided advice and guidance to the Alliance on the development of the project, which is to be submitted for approval by the GEF in March 2004.

Details on further UNEP efforts to mobilize resources for projects by Indigenous Peoples can be found it the project descriptions.

30. UNEP is also implementing the RAIPON-AMAP project "**Contaminants, Food Security and Indigenous Peoples of the Russian North**". See section C.II below for details.

Paragraph 74.

31. UNEP will participate in such workshop, if organised by the Special Rapporteur together with the suggested partners. It should be noted that the work of FAO is highly relevant to the topic as well, and their participation should be invited.

Paragraph 79.

32. HECA is currently still in a planning phase regarding the modalities for the work of the Alliance and has not yet analyzed the area that will be addressed or focused on.

C. OTHER SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION REGARDING RECENT POLICIES, PROGRAMMES, BUDGETARY ALLOCATIONS OR ACTIVITIES REGARDING INDIGENOUS ISSUES WITHIN UNEP.

I GENERAL

Division of Policy Development and Law (DPDL)

33. DPDL was created to provide policy development and legal support for improving the delivery and operation of environmental strategies. Partnerships with Governments, the donor community, civil society, the academia, international and regional organisations, private and public sector and other stakeholders remains the principal means for promoting consensus on policy and legal options for addressing environmental imperatives in the broader context of sustainable development.

34. Cross-cutting issues are poverty and environment, with a focus on the role of women in poverty reduction through recognising the crucial role women have in managing biodiversity, health and environment, partnerships for clean fuels and vehicles, water, dryland management, climate change and environmental law.

The current Civil Society and NGOs unit, where the focal point for indigenous peoples is located, within the Division of Policy Development and Law in UNEP will soon be transformed into a Major Groups and Stakeholder Branch.

35. DPDL began last year to implement the UNEP strategy to improve civil society engagement in the work of UNEP. The strategy includes activities on information exchange and policy and programmatic engagement. Through this strategy and the coordination by the new Major Groups and Stakeholder Branch a stronger focus on indigenous peoples in the environmental context is made and will be enforced in the overall UNEP activities and programmes.

36. Within the DPDL workprogramme a special focus is given to the crosscutting topic on poverty and environment as UNEP's Governing Council decision 21/15, requested the Executive Director of UNEP to develop and promote understanding of the linkages between poverty and the environment, the means of making people's livelihoods more productive and environmentally sustainable and appropriate policy options for Governments. The approach is of particular interest in the context of indigenous peoples who are often marginalized and among the poorest within society.

37. The challenge for UNEP is to contribute to a strengthening of the environmental management capacity at national and local levels. This requires a sound scientific basis and reliable information on the conditions of ecosystems, consequences of ecosystem change on social and economic processes, and analysis of options for policy and implementation responses.

38. The UNEP approach, "Poverty and Ecosystems: A Conceptual Framework", draws on the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA), the work of the Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen, and practical experience with participatory natural resource management.

39. This approach fully integrates the environment into the task of poverty alleviation. It recognizes that the well-being of the poor is closely linked to ecosystem services – including food, water, fuel, as well as the spiritual and social needs. Any poverty alleviation strategy must take into account the contribution of ecosystem services to the well-being of the poor. This requires a consistent approach capable of recognizing the circumstances under which specific groups of poor draw on essential ecosystem services and where preservation of these services may contribute more to their well-being than modest increases in incomes. As a rule, the poor are acutely aware of their dependence on these ecosystem services and consequently capable of identifying priority actions to conserve them.

Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (DTIE)

40. The Production and Consumption Branch of DTIE will co-organise the **International Indigenous Leadership Meeting on Sustainable Tourism**, scheduled for 2005. The objectives of the meeting are: to provide concrete guidance to the international community on baselines and strategies for sustainable tourism; to assess issues raised by the International Year of Ecotourism 2002; and to formulate recommendations for International Year of Ecotourism follow-up concerning the conservation of biological and cultural diversity. DTIE will contribute USD 10,000 to the meeting.

World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC)

41. UNEP-WCMC has collaborated with the Convention on Biological Diversity on "Report on the Status and Trends Regarding the Knowledge, Innovations and Practices of Indigenous and Local Communities Relevant to the Conservation and Sustainable Use of

Biodiversity". Phase 1 of this project was prepared on behalf of the CBD Secretariat by UNEP-WCMC. The report builds on several Regional Reports, produced both by UNEP-WCMC (for the regions of Europe and Africa) and by a number of other regional consultants coordinated by the CBD Secretariat.

42. UNEP-WCMC was also involved in a pilot project to provide in-country scientific and technical support for the development of capacity to gather, manage and retain indigenous knowledge of the use and conservation of medicinal plants. This project took place in Ghana with a number of British and Ghanaian partners and was sponsored by the UK Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species.

Regional Office for Asia Pacific (ROAP).

43. UNEP-ROAP supported the CPR (C.P. Ramaswami, Aiyar Foundation) Environmental Education Centre in Chennai, India to replicate a successful model of environmental education and community development in five indigenous villages in the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve in January- July 2002. The project focused on interventions in villages characterised by lack of land holdings, low income, insecure water supply, and restrictions on access to traditional forest resources through recent Government legislation. This involved training of women's groups, youth and teachers in environmental protection, water resources management, energy conservation, desilting of tanks and water bodies, vermicomposting, and eco-friendly income generation.

44. UNEP/ROAP also supported the 7th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas. Resolution 8 from the meeting focussed on Traditional Knowledge and emphasized the need for integration of all levels - from indigenous peoples to international community in Nature Conservation. This recommendation is reflected in the Pacific Islands Actions Strategy for Nature Conservation 2003-2007, which was the outcome of the Conference.

Regional Office for the Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC)

45. The Latin American Training Network of ROLAC, jointly coordinates with the Centre of Education and Training for Sustainable Development of the Mexican Ministry of Environment the project **Community training for the conservation of biodiversity and the sustainable exploitation of natural resources**. The first phase of the project focuses its efforts on the indigenous peoples of Chiapas through a training programme on conservation and sustainable management of the natural and cultural wealth of the indigenous peoples of Chiapas.

46. In response to a request made to UNEP/ROLAC at the "First Summit of Indigenous Women of the Americas" (Oaxaca, Mexico, November 2002), the Environmental Law Programme (DPDL/ELB) of ROLAC included in its 2004 workplan the organisation of training courses for indigenous women on the role of women in the conservation and

sustainable use of biological diversity, with emphasis on the biodiversity related multilateral environmental agreements and existing national legislation on the subject. The first series of courses will take place next April 2004 with the indigenous communities of the Argentinian Andes.

UNEP-GEF

47. Please refer to previous chapter under paragraph 60. for UNEP-GEF activities related to indigenous peoples as well as details on specific projects.

Division of Early Warning and Assessment (DEWA)

48. **The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA)** is the most extensive study ever of the linkages between the world's ecosystems and human well-being. It is a four-year, US$21 million effort. It was designed by a partnership of UN agencies, international scientific organisations, and development agencies, with guidance from private sector and civil society groups. UNEP contributes towards it by providing the MA secretariat, the UNEP Division of Early Warning and Assessment is functioning as the task manager, and within UNEP staff are many authors for the different thematic areas of the MA. The technical assessment reports produced by each of the four MA working groups will be published in 2005.

49. **Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands (LADA).** GEF, FAO, UNEP, Global Mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and other partners are undertaking the LADA project in order to develop and test effective assessment methodology for land degradation in drylands.

50. The goals of LADA are, firstly, the development and widespread application of a methodology to assess and quantify the nature, extent, severity, impact and root causes of land degradation in drylands, as well as remedial solutions. Secondly, the building of national, regional and global assessment capacities that will enable the design and planning of interventions to mitigate land degradation and provide incentives for and promote the adoption of sustainable land use and management practises.

51. LADA will utilise recent advances in participatory assessment, planning and management of resources which provide an opportunity for developing a more reliable and innovative assessment methodology for land degradation, one that includes the biophysical and socio-economic components and allows local knowledge and modern science be combined.

52. The project approach recognises that full and equal participation is essential for the sustainable development and management of drylands. Likewise, the LADA approach recognises that understanding and building on the local knowledge of drylands

management as well as on the social and cultural values of the resource users provides a sound basis for the sustainable management of drylands.

53. The first two-year preparatory phase was launched in 2002. It concentrates on methodology development and capacity building. New and integrated assessment methods will be tested in three pilot countries (Argentina, China and Senegal).

54. The subsequent four-year implementation phase of the project will develop a network of information systems and a series of assessments of land degradation at national, regional and global scales, focusing on areas at greatest risk and areas where degradation has been reversed. It will help countries build their national capacities of assessment and inform management.

55. **People, Land Management and Environment (PLEC).** UNEP was the implementing agent for this project, completed in 2002. PLEC has been part of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) work programme, with the United Nations University (UNU) as the executing agency.

56. PLEC was implemented from 1998 to 2002 in Brazil, China, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Papua New Guinea, Tanzania and Uganda. It was a collaborative effort between more than 200 scientists in 40 institutions, and many hundreds more innovative farmers from across the developing world.

57. The traditional environmental knowledge of farmers is the cumulative result of generations of learning, experiment and innovation on cultivation of biodiversity. Farmers have nurtured a diversity of plants and animals, either wild or domesticated, and built up **agrodiversity** - that is, "the diverse and dynamic ways in which farmers use the natural diversity of the environment for production, including not only their choice of crops but also their management of land, water and biota as a whole". Throughout the tropics many small farmers continue to develop agrodiverse practices rich in biodiversity, which successfully cope with new challenges and opportunities arising from social and environmental changes.

58. The role of agrodiversity in conserving biodiversity is demonstrated as a variety of resource management systems that protect local genotypes, cropping and agroforestry practices and forest ecologies. Evidence is accumulating that not only is there a wealth of good practice in many previously-overlooked local techniques and systems for biodiversity conservation, but also such techniques and systems reduce land degradation risks, and support local livelihoods.

59. The project involves local farmers and scientists in setting up demonstration sites in critical ecosystems and areas of globally significant biodiversity, such as forest, mountain, semi-arid, freshwater, and wetland in major regions in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and the tropical America.

60. The 'demonstration sites', made up of farming communities or villages, were used to work out and implemented sustainable and conservationist resource-use strategies in participation with stakeholders, and specifically with the farmers themselves.

61. Findings from PLEC demonstration sites, made up of farming communities or villages, show that even in the most intensively cropped land, in small mainly poor villages across wide ranging agro-ecosystems of the different clusters, farmers routinely cultivate some biological diversity, native or introduced.

62. One clear message that comes through 'expert farmer to farmer' interactions is that any developmental paradigm for them has to be based on a value system that the local communities can relate to. The connecting link is traditional ecological knowledge, which operates at a variety of spatial scales. The way in which traditional agricultural systems undergo change in space and time, as demonstrated e.g. through Ghanaian sacred groves, is the traditional ecological knowledge operating at the ecosystem level. PLEC, whilst working across geographical regions, shows that socio-culturally valued species, selected by local communities, are invariably ecologically important keystone species in an ecosystem and follow a very similar social selection pathway.

63. The achievements of PLEC have been to:

- Shed light on the understanding of how farmers and communities can help maintain and enhance biological diversity even in intensively cultivated areas.
- Advanced scientific knowledge and created the potential for expanding sustainable and productive relationships between scientists and farmers.
- Move knowledge into a new realm by linking local resource management systems to agricultural projects.
- Create a replicable process to empower people who support agrobiodiversity – social and biological, local and individual, at the landscape level.

64. Project duration: Four years, 1998-2002. Project cost: the total budget for this four year phase was almost US$ 11 million (GEF: US$ 6.2). The new phase is called **People, Land Management, and Ecosystem Conservation.** The PLEC project as such has ended but is successfully continued through smaller activities at a sub-national level.

65. **Desert Margins Programme (DMP)** is a collaborative venture among multi-layer partners from nine African countries: Burkina Faso, Botswana, Mali, Namibia, Niger, Senegal, Kenya, South Africa, and Zimbabwe, to integrate different disciplines and combine farmers/resource users contemporary knowledge, research and development efforts for arresting and reversing land degradation.

66. The DMP partners will, through a bottom-up participatory process, undertake activities intended to guarantee the participation of all stakeholders, especially the

participation of the most vulnerable groups, in the design, implementation and follow-up/evaluation of the project. The various groups of individuals/organisations who are going to benefit from the Desert Margins Programme include local communities and pastoralists / agro-pastoralist farmers, through better knowledge on the management of natural resources and hence

- easier access to medicinal plants and water,
- improved nutrition to families and fodder to livestock and wildlife,
- reduced levels of poverty due to alternative livelihood options, and
- reduced loss of biodiversity and general degradation of the ecosystem;

67. The goal of DMP is to contribute to sustainable food security and poverty alleviation through activities that conserve and restore biodiversity and reverse degradation processes in managed landscapes. The overall objective of DMP is to promote innovative and action-oriented dryland management research to arrest land degradation in Africa's desert margins through demonstration and capacity building activities.

68. The envisaged outputs of the Desert Margins Programme are:

- data on existing technologies (indigenous, new technologies, policy and institutional changes) and identification of those proven to increase the sustainable use of biodiversity (plants, animals and trees), arrest soil erosion and sedimentation;
- developed and tested technological options to arrest and reverse land degradation and its negative impacts;
- guidelines and recommendations for supportive national policies that address biodiversity concerns in implementing countries: DMP is envisaged to contribute significantly to reducing land degradation in the marginal areas and help conserve biodiversity, and at the same time provide alternative livelihoods to the rural communities. By the end of the project most of the stakeholders especially the local communities in and around the project sites, will have developed a common purpose and acquired the necessary skills, strategies and policies to: (a) conserve and restore biodiversity, (b) reduce and ultimately stop land degradation, (c) manage the environment and the natural resources in a sustainable manner.

69. Project duration: Six years, implementation started in 2002. Project cost: US$ 50 million (GEF: US$ 16 million; participating countries: US$ 15 million; international donors: US$ 19 million).

Division of Environmental Policy Implementation (DEPI)

70. **The Dams and Development Project** (DDP) of UNEP commenced in 2001 as a response to the third meeting of the World Commission on Dams (WCD). The DDP was established to broaden awareness of the issues presented and recommendations made in the report by the WCD, and help show – to all those who ask – how, where, why and in what ways they can be translated into action on the ground. The goal of UNEP-DDP is to

promote a dialogue on improving decision-making, planning and management of dams and their alternatives based on the WCD core values and strategic priorities.

71. The objectives UNEP-DDP are to:

- support country-level, regional and global dialogues on the WCD report and the issues it addresses with the aim of engaging all stakeholders with emphasis on those not currently involved;
- strengthen interaction and networking among participants in the dams debate;
- support the widespread dissemination of the WCD report and the report of the Third WCD Forum, and make available other stakeholders' responses; and
- facilitate the flow of information and advice concerning initiatives relevant to dams and development.

72. The mandate of the DDP excludes it from taking positions or making judgements on individual projects or associated practices. The role of the DDP is to support these processes where requested and to encourage the multi-stakeholder character of the discussions leading to context specific proposals for policy and procedural reforms.

73. The Dams and Development Forum (DDF) is a fundamental component of the governance structure for the DDP. The Forum members are representing governments, affected and indigenous peoples, utilities, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, financing institutions and other agencies, professional associations, researchers and groups working on alternatives to dams.

74. Representatives of the indigenous peoples' groups had been invited to all DD Forums to voice their opinion, share experiences, and advice the DDP. A representative of the Indigenous peoples' groups serves in the DDP Steering Committee. The DDP Steering Committee translates the guidance given by the multi-stakeholder groups into specific actions for the DDP. And through here the indigenous peoples have additional influence on the activities and the future plans of the DDP. In the Forums there have been simultaneous translations for at least three UN languages, and at times, financial support has been made available to bring along local translators for those indigenous Forum members who only speak their local language.

75. At the national and local level DDP is encouraging and in some cases supporting the translation of WCD Overview and Report into local languages. Most of the national multistakeholders' workshops are held in English and the local language.

Division of Environmental Conventions (DEC)

76. **Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and their relevance to Arctic Ecosystems and Indigenous Peoples.** A study was recently prepared by UNEP in

collaboration with MEAs to highlight their relevance to the Arctic environment and indigenous peoples. The study highlights priority issues, ongoing activities and the need for future work for each MEA in the Arctic region (for more details see also section C.II Polar regions).

Great Apes Survival Project (GRASP)

77. Since it was launched as a WSSD Type II Partnership, in September 2001, the Great Apes Survival Project (GRASP) has worked to bring together a diversity of stakeholders to address the crisis facing the great apes and their habitat. Through high level technical visits, field projects and National Great Ape Survival Plan (NGASP) policy making workshops in African and Southeast Asian great ape "range states", as well as political lobbying and awareness raising in donor countries, GRASP has made a strong case for the value it adds to great ape conservation efforts. It has an immediate challenge - to lift the threat of imminent extinction facing most populations of great apes.

78. GRASP aims to do this by working in partnership with the governments of states with great ape populations (the range states), non-governmental organisations, international bodies and the private sector. The international support for GRASP after its November 2003 intergovernmental preparatory meeting at UNESCO in Paris has made the partnership uniquely placed to mobilise and pool resources, ensure maximum efficiency and to provide a communication platform.
GRASP's 2003 to 2007 work plan also notes the need for creating partnerships with local organisations and communities, such as local bodies working with people living in and around ape habitats, and having a significant impact on those habitats or populations. In the area of awareness raising, one of the goals is to implement information, education, communication projects in and around areas harbouring great apes.

79. The development and implementation of pilot field projects with partners should follow GRASP's core principles and objectives by, for instance, ensuring local communities and the private sector are involved in planning and implementation, by linking biodiversity conservation, poverty alleviation and peace-building where appropriate, by encouraging further investment in areas with unrealised potential for ecotourism, so giving local people a permanent stake in the conservation of ape habitats, and by working with private companies to stop the over-exploitation of forests and to mitigate damaging impacts, and ploughing resources back into conservation and local communities.

80. GRASP also aims to work with local people to develop and implement conservation initiatives that are of mutual benefit to communities and great apes. This will be done by supporting community-based projects that protect the forest ecosystem and help people as well as wildlife for example by working with eco-tourism operators to ensure that revenues generated benefit local communities. Some regions, such as northwestern Cameroon, have longstanding traditions that give special protection to great apes. GRASP will build on these wherever possible

81. From 2004, GRASP fund-raising campaigns provide new funds for ape conservation and for the indigenous people who depend on the same forests.

II. POLAR REGIONS

82. UNEP, is dedicated to placing the sustainable development of the Arctic on the global agenda. Amongst the main priorities are the Arctic environment and a sustainable future for the Arctic indigenous peoples. Their survival and future well-being will be the best indicator of sustainable development of this rich but vulnerable region of the world.

UNEP-DEC (Division on Environmental Conventions)

83. **Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and their relevance to Arctic Ecosystems and Indigenous Peoples.** A study was recently prepared by UNEP in collaboration with MEAs to highlight their relevance to the Arctic environment and indigenous peoples. The study highlights priority issues, ongoing activities and the need for future work for each MEA in the Arctic region.

84. The participating MEAs were Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA), Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), World Heritage Convention (WHC), United Nations Convention Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Vienna Convention on the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the Montreal Protocol on substances that deplete the Ozone Layer, as well as the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA).

85. MEA's generally recognize indigenous peoples as key stakeholders, and acknowledge the need for indigenous participation (e.g. CBD, but CITES for example is also very clear on the need to secure the support and cooperation of indigenous communities in managing wildlife resources and therefore combating illegal trade). One clear message that comes through the study is that there exists a general recognition among the MEA's that the indigenous peoples direct and critical subsistence link to the environment makes them especially vulnerable. This is reflected by the understanding that their reliance on traditional foods is exposing them to the contaminants present in that food (the Stockholm Convention, GPA), as well as by the accommodation made for the needs of traditional subsistence users of endangered or rare species (CMS, AEWA). The threat to the ozone layer and climate change are especially acute risks on the Arctic regions, and hence for the Arctic indigenous peoples (UNFCCC, IPCC, and the Vienna Convention).

86. It is expected that the study will facilitate the identification of synergies and interlinkages between MEAs and relevant partners on Arctic issues, and encourage partners to develop joint programmes and help identify funding opportunities. It represents a good example of interlinkages on geographic, substantive and institutional issues. The identification of areas where future work is needed should help to shape policies in future.

87. The UNEP/ *Division of Environmental Conventions* is currently looking into the possibility of undertaking a wider study, encompassing all MEA's and their relevance to indigenous peoples in all regions and ecosystems.

UNEP-GRID (The Global and Regional Integrated Data (GRID)[1] Centre), Arendal, Norway

88. GRID Arendal is the key polar center of UNEP. Its polar mandate was re-affirmed in GC decision 22/11 on the sustainable development of the Arctic. Indigenous peoples are the key stakeholders in the Arctic. As such, their participation in sustainable development is a requirement for success. Their livelihood depends directly on the environment – the link between people and the environment is especially close.

89. GRID-Arendal has a strong focus on indigenous issues operating through the Arctic Indigenous Peoples Program. GRID-Arendal represents UNEP in the Arctic Council related activities, and one of its priorities has been to support Arctic indigenous peoples' participation in Arctic Council projects. The GRID-Arendal periodic newspaper, *The Polar Environment Times* provides a canvass for all stakeholders in polar environment to voice their concerns and perspectives, including the perspectives of arctic indigenous peoples. The latest copy of the newspaper will be available to the 3rd session of the PFII.

90. Most of this support has gone to develop the capacity of the regional and central organisations of the indigenous peoples of Arctic Russia, in the fields of environmental knowledge, networking, information, and awareness raising.

Programme for Capacity Building and Participation of Russia's Indigenous Peoples in the Sustainable Development of the Arctic.

91. The programme is a partnership of the RAIPON, GRID-Arendal and the Saami Council. In March 1998, leaders from 28 indigenous groups residing in Arctic Russia met

[1] GRID is a global network of environmental data centres facilitating the generation and dissemination of key environmental geo-referenced and statistical data-sets and information products, focusing on environmental issues and natural resources. GRID centres typically have the ability, expertise and specialized information technology (environmental data management, remote sensing/Geographic Information Systems) to prepare, analyse and present environmental data and information, which are the basis for reliable environmental assessments.

for the first time to discuss common problems related to their threatened environment and natural resources. The main output of the seminar was a report with their own assessment of their environmental problems, proposed actions and request for help from international fora. There is no doubt that their situation is critical and some groups are on the brink of physical extinction. This, combined with political support from Norway, led to the development of a programme proposal to support the indigenous peoples of Arctic Russia in the fall of 1998.

92. The programme goals are to :

- Develop the capacity of the regional and central organisations of the indigenous peoples of Arctic Russia in the fields of environmental knowledge, networking, information, and awareness raising.
- Strengthen the movement of Russian Arctic Indigenous Peoples as participants in the democratic development of Russia.
- Support sustainable development in Arctic Russia through focus on indigenous knowledge and strengthening of the capacity of the indigenous peoples to participate in the process.

93. The programme will draw on experience and competence in the Nordic Saami organisations in environment and development issues from an indigenous perspective and consists of several parts that will be coordinated through the same governance structure but may be funded from different sources and partly run by different project groups:

- Programme management and fund-raising
- Networking
- Local reporting on health, environment and living conditions
- Environmental impact assessment
- Legal regime
- Small business development

94. Programme Duration: 8 years (1999-2007). Programme cost: US$ 2,5 million (Government of Norway).

Contaminants/Persistent Toxic Substances (PTS), Food Security and Indigenous peoples of the Russian North.

95. UNEP is supporting the implementation of this three-year project. The three-year project, funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and a number of partners, is executed by the Secretariat of the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP) - a Programme of the Arctic Council - together with RAIPON.

96. Traditional food, particularly if derived from marine mammals, is a significant source of persistent toxic substances in the diets of Arctic indigenous peoples. The main objective of the project is to assist Indigenous Peoples of the Russian North in developing

appropriate remedial actions to reduce the health risk resulting from the contamination of their environment and traditional food sources by persistent toxic substances (PTS).

97. Objectives are to ascertain the level of key POPs in traditional foods and in blood and lipid tissues of selected populations and to analyse the health and dietary implications of these findings.

98. The project assesses the significance of aquatic food chains as a pathway of exposure of Indigenous Peoples to PTS, and on the actions necessary to reduce this route of exposure, thus contributing to identifying solutions to the threats posed by PTS to the Arctic aquatic environment. It assesses also the relative importance of local and distant sources, and the role of atmospheric versus riverine transport of PTS.

99. Most importantly, it will provide recommendations to federal and local authorities, indigenous peoples, and the international community on measures to reduce the exposure of indigenous Peoples to PTS, including identification of priority areas where actions are needed.

100. Project duration: February 1,2001 - December 31, 2003. Project cost: US$ 2.440 million (GEF: US$ 0.750 million; Co-financing: US$ 1.690 million).
Partners: AMAP; Russian Federation, Ministry for Natural Resources

101. **Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) Workshop.** The main purpose of this project is to provide a comprehensive review of experiences with various forms of collaborative management of natural and cultural resources from all over the world, including Europe, North America and selected developing countries in Africa. The focus will be on how "**lessons learned**" can be applied in Russia. Whilst CBNRM is applicable in areas with communal land tenure rights, "market led conservation" has proven to be an equally valid conservation strategy on private as well as state lands – thus making it very relevant to the Russian context.

102. UNEP / GRID Arendal has also been working with RAIPON youth and the Norwegian Saami youth on a networking and information project. The outcome was a magazine "The Indigenous Peoples Youth World. Youth supplement to the Indigenous Peoples World Living Arctic magazine #13" by and about youth.

New proposals and planned initiatives of GRID-Arendal are:

103. **International Network of Arctic Indigenous Community-Based Environmental Monitoring & Information Stations (AICEMI stations).** The programme is proposed as a Part of a Global Integrated Arctic Information and Research System for *The International Polar Year 2007-2008*. It is a joint proposal by GRID-Arendal together with the Aleut International Association. The aim is the creation of an international circumpolar network of AICEMI stations that will generate and exchange research and

monitoring data collected by indigenous experts and scientists. It answers the need for joint international monitoring of the environmental, social, and economic changes and trends in the Arctic.
The International Polar Year could become a catalyst of multilateral, socially and scientifically diverse collaboration on a creation of a wholesome, all-inclusive monitoring system.

104. The goal is to increase the capacity and effectiveness of the circumpolar monitoring through involvement of the indigenous peoples communities and utilization of traditional ecological knowledge aimed at:

- Better understanding of the social, economic, and environmental impacts of climate change and human activities in the Arctic;
- Assessment of vulnerability and adaptation to changes;
- Facilitation of circumpolar information exchange among indigenous communities;
- Increase in indigenous peoples' organizations participation as stakeholders in international cooperation.

105. The programme will consist of four phases over 2004-2007. The concept is based on development of a regional network, a pilot project, as an initial step and then using the model for circumpolar application. The Bering Sea region is proposed for the pilot project.

Environmental Impact Assessment training course (EIA). The course will combine modern practices with traditional knowledge and will be tailored for indigenous peoples living in Arctic Russia. The **EIA project** aims to identify the tools that can be used or adapted to meet indigenous peoples' needs in assessing impacts. Amongst the tools to be explored in the project are:

- Environmental impact assessment (EIA), - a process where one identifies, communicates, predicts and interprets information on the potential impacts of proposed activities on the environment, including humans.
- Social and cultural impact assessments (community impact assessment, impacts on values and beliefs systems, languages, economy, vitality and viability of an affected community)
- Tools defined by the CBD process, e.g. access and benefit sharing
- Other tools and methods may also be explored.

106. Further, there is a challenge in adapting the identified tools to Russian conditions, e.g. the environmental situation, traditions and the legal system.

107. **Vital Arctic Graphics.** As part of UNEP's response to the Governing Council decision 22/11, UNEP intends to develop a volume in the series of Vital Graphics devoted to the Arctic, with a special emphasis on Indigenous Peoples. Themes will include: indigenous knowledge of climate change, adaptation to climate change,

pollutants in the Arctic and health linkages, standard of living in the Arctic, and issues on development in the Arctic (fragmentation of habitats, loss of traditional hunting grounds).

D. INFORMATION AND SUGGESTIONS REGARDING THE SPECIAL THEME OF THE THIRD SESSION, "INDIGENOUS WOMEN".

108. UNEP's Programme of Work in 2004 – 2005 includes a commitment to make gender a cross-cutting priority in all its programmes, with an emphasis on the empowerment of women in environmental decision-making; active participation of women; technical assistance to women's networks; a focus on women in reports on environmental links to ill health; development of education and training materials; organisation of workshops; and gender balance in meetings. UNEP's Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (DTIE) is currently developing a paper on gender and sustainable consumption, aimed at identifying ways of mainstreaming gender issues in sustainable consumption activities.

UNEP publication on "Women and Environment" (in the UNEP series on Policy Development and Law).

109. The objectives of this publication are to give visibility and pay tribute to the roles that women play in environment and sustainable development; to demonstrate the value of a gender perspective in sustainable development; and to explore concrete policies, strategies and practices in environmental use and conservation. The publication also has a chapter on indigenous women's environmental and traditional knowledge and is currently in print.

UNEP *Environmental Global Women's Assembly: Sowing the Seeds of Change* (planned for October 2004).

110. In light of the revitalisation of UNEP's gender programme and the emphasis placed on gender in UNEP's 2004-2005 Programme of Work and UNEP's enhanced engagement to work in partnership with civil society organisations a Global Women's Assembly will initiate these commitments.

As a first step a women's consultative seminar was held to prepare for the *Global Women's Assembly on Environment* 2004 on 25-26 February 2004 in Nairobi. One of the six working groups was on the topic of *Biodiversity, Water and Indigenous Knowledge at the Core of Sustainable and Equitable Development.* The objective of this particular working group was to assess the contribution of women's indigenous knowledge (systems) in sustainable biodiversity and water use and management and recommend necessary steps.

Participants of the Assembly will include: women activists and grassroots organisations, experts in gender and environment, women leaders in environment, indigenous women organisations, young women, managers and policy makers (men and women) and media representatives.